

## EXERCISES

**FUNCTION A: TALKING ABOUT PAST EVENTS**

**ARABIC DICTIONARIES** ➤ Arabic dictionaries usually list words according to their root. Verbs are always at the beginning of the entry in the simplest form--masculine third person singular, or the "he" form--because this form is closest to the root. To help you get used to seeing the root whenever you look at a verb, we will include it in brackets with each vocabulary entry, for example

*wṣélti (wéssel)*                      you (f) arrived                      (وصلتي (وصل)

**VERBS--REGULAR TYPE I ROOTS** ➤ Although at first Arabic verbs may seem complicated, they are in fact quite regular. We will practise them in groups to help you remember the patterns. First we will look at regular Type I verbs.

Remember that all Arabic words are derived from roots which contain the basic meaning of the word. The root is made of three consonants, for example

**Regular 'a' Type I Roots**

<i>k-t-b</i>	write	ك-ت-ب
<i>d-r-s</i>	study	د-ر-س
<i>r-q-ṣ</i>	dance	ر-ق-ص
<i>s-b-ḥ</i>	swim	س-ب-ح
<i>r-k-d</i>	run	ر-ك-ض
<i>t-b-kh</i>	cook	ط-ب-خ
<i>a-k-l</i>	eat	أ-ك-ل
<i>gh-s-l</i>	wash	غ-س-ل
<i>a-kh-d</i>	take	أ-خ-ذ
<i>kh-l-ṣ</i>	finish	خ-ل-ص

**Regular 'é' Type I Roots**

<i>é-m-l</i>	do	ع-م-ل
<i>s-m-é</i>	hear, listen	س-م-ع
<i>f-h-m</i>	understand	ف-ه-م
<i>é-r-f</i>	know	ع-ر-ف
<i>sh-r-b</i>	drink	ش-ر-ب
<i>l-é-b</i>	play	ل-ع-ب
<i>r-k-b</i>	ride	ر-ك-ب
<i>w-ṣ-l</i>	arrive	و-ص-ل
<i>r-j-é</i>	return	ر-ج-ع
<i>t-l-é</i>	go out, go up	ط-ل-ع

1. **Root recognition game. Do not worry about the meaning of the verb or its conjugation, simply try to match roots with verbs, for example**

a.	<i>k-t-b</i>	<i>ghaslet</i>	غسلت	ك-ت-ب
b.	<i>d-r-s</i>	<i>sabahu</i>	سبحوا	د-ر-س
c.	<i>gh-s-l</i>	<i>katab</i>	كتب	غ-س-ل
d.	<i>r-q-ṣ</i>	<i>rakaʿt</i>	ركضت	ر-ق-ص
e.	<i>a-k-l</i>	<i>darastu</i>	درستوا	أ-ك-ل
f.	<i>s-b-h</i>	<i>raqasna</i>	رقصنا	س-ب-ح
g.	<i>r-k-d</i>	<i>akalti</i>	أكلتي	ر-ك-ض
h.	<i>w-s-l</i>	<i>shérbet</i>	شربت	و-ص-ل
i.	<i>s-m-ʿ</i>	<i>rkébtu</i>	ركبتوا	س-م-ع
j.	<i>f-h-m</i>	<i>ʿmélna</i>	عملنا	ف-ه-م
k.	<i>ʿ-m-l</i>	<i>leʿébtu</i>	لعبتي	ع-م-ل
l.	<i>sh-r-b</i>	<i>féhem</i>	فهم	ش-ر-ب
m.	<i>l-ʿ-b</i>	<i>sémʿu</i>	سمعوا	ل-ع-ب
n.	<i>r-k-b</i>	<i>wšélt</i>	وصلت	ر-ك-ب

**THE “PAST” TENSE** ➔ Arabic tenses do not correspond exactly with English. When we say something is in the “past” tense in Arabic we actually mean it is a completed or “perfect” action and could correspond with either “did” or “have done” in English. Generally there is no confusion as the exact meaning is clarified by the context and time words used.

You can negate past tense verbs by simply placing *maa* ما before the verb.

**CONJUGATION-REGULAR TYPE I** ➔ There are two internal vowel possibilities with regular Type I verbs--‘a’ and ‘é’. These vowels only affect the internal structure of the verbs, but not the conjugation itself. As you can see below the hyphenated suffixes in both groups are identical. (We have hyphenated the suffixes in the transliteration to help you remember them but note the Arabic suffix is attached directly to the verb.) These suffixes carry the meaning of “I” “you” and so on, which means you need only use a pronoun for emphasis or clarification.

☉ **Regular ‘a’ Type I in Past Tense (كتب k-t-b)**

<i>hurwwe</i>	<i>katab</i>	he, it (m) wrote	كتب	هو
<i>hiyye</i>	<i>katab-et</i>	she, it (f) wrote	كتبت	هي
<i>hénne</i>	<i>katab-u</i>	they wrote	كتبوا	هن
<i>ana</i>	<i>katab-ét</i>	I wrote	كتبت	أنا
<i>énte</i>	<i>katab-ét</i>	you (m) wrote	كتبت	انت
<i>énti</i>	<i>katab-ti</i>	you (f) wrote	كتبتني	انتي
<i>éntu</i>	<i>katab-tu</i>	you (pl) wrote	كتبتموا	انتوا
<i>néhna</i>	<i>katab-na</i>	we wrote	كتبنا	نحن

☉ **Regular ‘é’ Type I in Past Tense (وصل w-s-l)**

<i>hurwwe</i>	<i>wéšel</i>	he, it (m) arrived	وصل	هو
<i>hiyye</i>	<i>wéšl-et</i>	she, it (f) arrived	وصلت	هي
<i>hénne</i>	<i>wéšl-u</i>	they arrived	وصلوا	هن
<i>ana</i>	<i>wšél-ét</i>	I arrived	وصلت	أنا
<i>énte</i>	<i>wšél-ét</i>	you (m) arrived	وصلت	انت
<i>énti</i>	<i>wšél-ti</i>	you (f) arrived	وصلتني	انتي
<i>éntu</i>	<i>wšél-tu</i>	you (pl) arrived	وصلتموا	انتوا
<i>néhna</i>	<i>wšél-na</i>	we arrived	وصلنا	نحن

Note that the final *Alif* in the plural forms *-u* وا is not pronounced.

**2. Conjugate these verbs:**

<i>hurwwe</i>	<i>daras</i>	<i>éemel</i>	عمل	درس	هو
<i>hiyye</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	هي
<i>hénne</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	هن
<i>ana</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	أنا
<i>énte</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	انت
<i>énti</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	انتي
<i>éntu</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	انتوا
<i>néhna</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	نحن

EARLY, LATE AND ON TIME ➔ Three useful words to use with *wéṣel* وصل:

<i>bakiir</i>	early	بكبير
<i>métakhkher(a)</i>	late	متأخّر(ة)
<i>ع a-l-waqet</i>	on time	ع الوقت



3. Listen to the passage and fill in the missing words.

*mbaareh* Mark...

مبارح مارك...

a. \_\_\_\_\_ *qahwe w*

\_\_\_\_\_ قهوة و

b. \_\_\_\_\_ *ér-raadyoo w*

\_\_\_\_\_ الراديو و

c. \_\_\_\_\_ *tanes maḗ rfiiqo.*

\_\_\_\_\_ تنس مع رفيقه

*baḗd ét-tanes...*

بعد التنس...

d. \_\_\_\_\_ *taksii l-él-maḗ had bass*

institute

\_\_\_\_\_ تكسي للمعهد بس

e. *maa* \_\_\_\_\_ *él-waziife w*

ما \_\_\_\_\_ الوظيفة و

f. \_\_\_\_\_ *mét' akhkher ع a-d-dar's.*

\_\_\_\_\_ متأخّر ع الدرس.

*huniik* Mark...

هونيك مارك...

g. \_\_\_\_\_ *ع arabi bass*

\_\_\_\_\_ عربي بس

h. *maa* \_\_\_\_\_ *éd-dars mniih*

ما \_\_\_\_\_ الدرس منيح

*la'énno waḗt éd-dars...*

during

لأنه وقت الدرس...

i. \_\_\_\_\_ *risaale la-rfiiqto.*

letter

\_\_\_\_\_ رسالة لرفيقته.

*baḗd éd-dar's...*

بعد الدرس...

j. \_\_\_\_\_ *la-beeto w*

\_\_\_\_\_ لبيته و

k. \_\_\_\_\_ *sandwiish w*

\_\_\_\_\_ سندويش و

l. \_\_\_\_\_ *sayaarto.*

\_\_\_\_\_ سيارته.

*b-él-leel...*

بالليل...

m. \_\_\_\_\_ *maḗ rfiiqto b-sayaarto lé-ndiife w*

مع رفيقته بسيارته النظيفة و

n. \_\_\_\_\_ *baḗd néṣṣ él-leel.*

\_\_\_\_\_ بعد نصّ الليل.

*wéṣel* *daras*

وصل درس

*téleḗ* *ghasal*

طلع غسل

*rékeb* *katab*

ركب كتب

*léḗeb* *akal*

لعب أكل

*féhm* *éémel*

فهم عمل

*shéreb* *réjeḗ*

شرب رجع

*sémḗḗ* *rakad*

سمع ركض

4. Write questions about Mark's day beginning with these question words:

- a. *eemta* \_\_\_\_\_ ايمتى  
 b. *ween* \_\_\_\_\_ وين  
 c. *shu* \_\_\_\_\_ شو  
 d. *leesh* \_\_\_\_\_ ليش  
 e. *maḗ miin* \_\_\_\_\_ مع مين

## 5. Write a complete sentence in the space using the information provided, for example

eg *k-t-b (huwwe) > huwwe katab risaale.* ك-ت-ب (هو) < هو كتب رسالة.

- a. *w-ṣ-l (ana)* \_\_\_\_\_ (أنا) و-ص-ل
- b. *d-r-s (hiyye)* \_\_\_\_\_ (هي) د-ر-س
- c. *ʿ-m-l (hénne)* \_\_\_\_\_ (هنّ) ع-م-ل
- d. *a-k-l (ana)* \_\_\_\_\_ (أنا) أ-ك-ل
- e. *sh-r-b (énte)* \_\_\_\_\_ (انت) ش-ر-ب
- f. *l-ʿ-b (néhna)* \_\_\_\_\_ (نحن) ل-ع-ب
- g. *f-h-m (énti)* \_\_\_\_\_ (انتي) ف-ه-م
- h. *s-m-ʿ (éntu)* \_\_\_\_\_ (انتوا) س-م-ع
- i. *r-q-ṣ (néhna)* \_\_\_\_\_ (نحن) ر-ق-ص
- j. *s-b-h (huwwe)* \_\_\_\_\_ (هو) س-ب-ح
- k. *gh-s-l (hiyye)* \_\_\_\_\_ (هي) غ-س-ل
- l. *r-k-d (énti)* \_\_\_\_\_ (انتي) ر-ك-ض
- m. *r-k-b (éntu)* \_\_\_\_\_ (انتوا) ر-ك-ب

<i>qahwe</i>	<i>ʿarabi</i>	عربي	قهوة
<i>maktuub</i>	<i>b-éd-diisko</i>	بالديسكو	مكتوب
<i>él-akḥbaar</i>	<i>b-él-jneene</i>	بالجنينة	الأخبار
<i>awaʿi</i>	<i>ʿa-l-bésʿkleet</i>	عالبسكليت	أواعي
<i>ḥafle</i>	<i>éd-dars</i>	الدرس	حفلة
<i>buuza</i>	<i>b-él-baḥr</i>	in the sea بالبحر	بوظة
<i>bakiir</i>	<i>ṭaawle</i>	backgammon طاولة	بكيير

**QUESTION MARKER** ➔ You can use *shi* شـي at the end of a question to clarify that you are indeed asking a question.



**6. Listen to the conversation and fill in the missing words.**

- A *l'ébtí* \_\_\_\_\_ *mbaareh shi*? لعبتي \_\_\_\_\_ مبارح شي؟  
 B *la, maa l'ébtí* \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, ما لعبت \_\_\_\_\_,  
*l'ébtí* \_\_\_\_\_ cards . لعبت \_\_\_\_\_.

Now work with a teacher or classmate and take it in turns to ask each other these questions.

- a. *l'ébt(i) taawle mbaareh shi*? لعبت(ي) طاولة مبارح شي؟  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. *darast(i) arabí mbaareh shi*? درست(ي) عربي مبارح شي؟  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. *sméet(i) él-kaaseet mbaareh shi*? سمعت(ي) الكاسيت مبارح شي؟  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. *shrébt(i) qahwe él-yoom shi*? شربت(ي) قهوة اليوم شي؟  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. *rkébt(i) taksii la-d-dars él-yoom shi*? ركبت(ي) تكسي للدرس اليوم شي؟  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 f. *wshélt(i) a-l-waqt la-d-dars él-yoom shi*? وصلت(ي) عالوقت للدرس اليوم شي؟  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 g. *fhémt(i) éd-dars él-yoom shi*? فهمت(ي) الدرس اليوم شي؟  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 h. *emélt(i) él-waziife shi*? عملت(ي) الوظيفة شي؟  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 i. *katabt(i) él-waziife b-él-arabi shi*? كتبت(ي) الوظيفة بالعربي شي؟  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**IDIOMS** ➔ Here are some very common idioms using verbs in the past tense.

- |                         |                         |               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| <i>eréft!</i>           | I knew it!              | عرفت!         |
| <i>eréft(i) küif?</i>   | You know what I mean?   | عرفت(ي) كيف؟  |
| <i>eréft(i) shloon?</i> | You know what I mean?   | عرفت(ي) شلون؟ |
| <i>fhémt aaleek (i)</i> | I see (what you mean)   | فهمت عليك(ي)  |
| <i>fhémt(i) aaleey?</i> | Do you see what I mean? | فهمت(ي) علي؟  |